

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-
TIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, Representative TOM LANTOS (D-CA) was the personification of America at her best. During his nearly 28 years in office, TOM was a champion for human rights and social justice around the world. As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and co-founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, TOM was dedicated to securing the freedom and liberty he treasured for all people.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, TOM was a member of the anti-Nazi resistance movement and escaped Nazi labor camps twice. The war took most of his family and with the help of a brave Hungarian diplomat, he and his wife, Annette, arrived in America penniless with little aside from painful memories of the war, and an unparalleled determination to prevent the repetition of the atrocities he had seen.

After winning election to the House in 1980, TOM quickly showed himself to be an undisputed authority on foreign policy. His eloquence and passion made him a natural leader as he forged alliances where no one else could. In accord with his commitment to human rights, he was one of the first to sound the alarm on the ethnic killings in Dafur. And he was one of five members of Congress arrested for protesting outside the Sudanese Embassy.

Representative TOM LANTOS is survived by his wife of nearly 58 years, their two daughters and 18 grandchildren. His daughter Annette and her beautiful family are constituents of mine as well as personal friends. My condolences go out to her, TOM's other daughter Katrina and his beautiful wife, Annette. TOM LANTOS will be remembered for his courage, inspiration and compassion. TOM, we all loved and respected you. We will continue your ceaseless fight to keep America true to her conscience.

RECOGNITION OF CATHY TRAVIS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the contributions of a great public servant, Cathy Travis, on the occasion of her retirement from the staff of Congressman SOLOMON ORTIZ and the House of Representatives. On January 1, 2008, after more than 25 years on the Hill, Cathy retired from her position as the senior advisor to Congressman ORTIZ.

Through her dedication and diligence, Cathy also enabled me to maximize my efficiency as the chairwoman of the Texas Democratic congressional delegation. For that, I am grateful.

A native of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Cathy graduated from Arkansas State University with a bachelor's degree in public relations and an emphasis in political science. Politics always fascinated her, and after graduation, she went to work for former Congressman Bill Alexander (D-Arkansas) as a press assistant. She also worked on the floor of the House of Representatives, for the Office of the House Majority Whip, and on numerous political campaigns. She performed all assignments with a sense of humor, a sense of duty and above all, a sense of patriotism.

Since the early 1990s, Cathy Travis saw a need for more educational tools to give the American people a better understanding of how our Government works and the fundamental rights accorded by the Constitution. Thus was born her book, *Constitution Translated for Kids*, an accessible translation of the document that serves as the foundation of the United States Government. The original text is paired side-by-side with a kid-friendly interpretation to pique interest and stimulate further discussion of American liberties. It also includes a discussion of proposed amendments to the Constitution that have been strongly debated, and a detailed explanation on the separation of powers.

Cathy Travis is a dedicated American in the finest tradition, and this institution will greatly miss her.

IN HONOR OF GEORGE HOWELL

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a father, husband, and soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice in service of the Nation. U.S. Army PFC George Howell was from the small rural central California community of Prunedale. He was a humble man who devoted his life to his family.

George enlisted into the Army in June 2007, and was deployed to Iraq in September 2007, where he fought valiantly as an infantry soldier in the 10th Mountain Division. He fought not only to give freedom to the people of Iraq, but to offer a better life to his family. He was a soldier who rose to defend his country and a young father who rose to provide for his young children. He dedicated his life so that others can live in a future filled with hope.

On December 21, 2007, George was fatally wounded when his unit was attacked while on patrol in northern Iraq. He was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on January 25, 2008. George was awarded a Purple Heart and the Army Service Ribbon for his courageous service. These awards depict the greatness of this fine soldier and symbolize the sincere gratitude of this country. Moreover, George's life has inspired the lives of others and has united a community. This soldier, father, and husband shall be remembered for his caring, altruistic life.

Held closest to George's heart is the love and support of his wife, and partner, Kristen, and his two young children, Niya, Raiden, and his yet to be born child. His dream and lifework was his family, and he fought to offer them a life filled with limitless opportunity. In the future, his family will experience the dream their father has waiting for them.

Madam Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in extending our deepest sympathies to PFC George Howell's family. While we praise his service and sacrifice for his country, we must never forget the deep personal tragedy of a wife losing her husband and of children losing their father. They are all great American heroes who deserve this Nation's recognition, gratitude, and support.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY
OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 66th anniversary of the National "Day of Remembrance."

I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific Islander American Caucus and to represent a large number of individuals of Japanese descent in the 32nd District.

The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II is one of our government's most shameful actions. Families were ripped from their homes and communities, even while many Japanese citizens served in the U.S. armed forces in World War II.

We cannot sit back and allow similar civil and human rights violations unfold before our eyes. We must remember that any oppression, any injustice, any hatred, is a wedge designed to attack our civilization.

We must remember, and more importantly, we must learn from our past.

SMITHSONIAN FREE ADMISSION
ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Smithsonian Free Admission Act to reinforce 160 years of consistent Smithsonian policy, admitting the public to all permanent exhibits without charge. That policy is embodied in the original intent of the founder's gift to the federal government that the Smithsonian be established to increase the knowledge of the public. The first bill establishing the Smithsonian, introduced by Senator William C. Preston on February 17, 1841, stated explicitly that the Smithsonian would "preserve and exhibit with no fee all" works of art and science. This intent and tradition was interrupted by the Board of Regents with the casual comment that this would be the first time admission fees would be charged and was done without notice to anyone when the Regents voted, on January 29, 2007, to institute the first fees in the history of the Smithsonian. The Congress and not the Regents should decide so basic a policy, especially when it departs from longstanding public policy. The admission fee sets a precedent for future permanent exhibits and makes it impossible to deny the other Smithsonian entities the same privilege and may encourage other Smithsonian entities to structure their exhibits to fit the Buttrick Pavilion model.